

New law provides an annual salary adjustment of not less than \$5,000 for certain public school teachers having certificates issued by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS).

Specifies, effective for the 1999-2000 school year and thereafter, that a full-time teacher holding both a valid Louisiana regular teaching certificate approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and a valid certificate issued by the NBPTS and who is employed by a school board to provide instruction to students shall receive from the school board an annual amount of not less than \$5,000.

Requires that this amount be in addition to the teacher's annual salary as provided by law and school board policy and that the amount be distributed in the same manner as the annual salary. Provides that for any teacher awarded the national certificate during the 1999-2000 school year or thereafter, the additional amount shall be paid to the teacher beginning in the school year immediately following the school year in which the certificate is awarded.

Also specifies (in addition to any other requirements of new law) that to receive the salary adjustment an otherwise eligible person must have been awarded the initial certificate issued by the NBPTS prior to July 1, 2002.

States that, subject to the appropriation of funds for this purpose, the amount of the salary adjustment provided by a school board to a teacher pursuant to new law shall be reimbursed to the school board annually by the state Dept. of Education. Specifies, however, that no such reimbursement shall exceed \$5,000 per year per teacher, including retirement benefits.

Defines "school board" for new law purposes to mean the governing authority of any public elementary or secondary school.

Effective upon signature of governor (July 9, 1999).

(Adds R.S. 17:421.6)